

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 691-5870

http://www.bls.gov/jlt/

USDL 02-412

For release: 10:00 A.M. EDT

Media contact: 691-5902 Tuesday, July 30, 2002

NEW MONTHLY DATA SERIES ON JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER ANNOUNCED BY BLS

New data on job openings and labor turnover were announced today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. These series include estimates of the number and rate of job openings, hires, and separations for the nation, by industry and geographic region. Job openings are a measure of unmet labor demand and can be compared with unemployment, which measures unused labor supply.

Job openings refer to the number on the last business day of the month, and the number of hires and separations are for the entire month. The sample of 16,000 business establishments covers both the private sector and government. Estimates from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) are not seasonally adjusted, and experience suggests that there is a seasonal pattern to job openings, hires, and separations. Thus, comparisons of JOLTS estimates should be based on the same month in different years (for example, May 2002 to May 2001), and comparisons between consecutive months should not be used as an indicator of trend. In addition, BLS considers the JOLTS estimates to be developmental. See the Background section and the Technical Note for additional information.

This first release of JOLTS estimates covers the period from May 2001 to May 2002 and shows that:

- The number and rate of job openings in May 2002 were substantially lower than a year earlier. On the last business day of May 2002, there were 3.5 million job openings, 2.6 percent of the number of total filled and unfilled positions (employment plus job openings) in the United States. This was down significantly from 4.3 million openings, or a job openings rate of 3.2 percent, in May 2001. (See tables 1 and 2.) Over the same period, the total U.S. unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) rose to 5.5 percent from 4.1 percent a year earlier.
- Over the year ended in May 2002, the largest decline in job openings occurred in construction, where the rate fell from 3.4 percent to 1.9 percent. Large declines also occurred in retail trade, services, and mining. Job openings held relatively steady compared with a year ago in manufacturing and government. (See table 1.)
- The pace of hiring also declined compared with a year ago. The hires rate, or the number of hires during the month divided by employment, was 3.7 percent in May 2002, down significantly from 4.3 percent a year earlier. (See table 3.) Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. The hires rate was lower in most industry divisions in May 2002 than in May 2001. (Hires and separations estimates prior to March 2002 are not strictly comparable with estimates for later periods. See the Background section and the Technical Note for additional information.)

- The total separations, or turnover, rate (the number of separations during the month divided by employment) was 3.1 percent in May 2002, down significantly from 3.7 percent a year ago. (See table 5.) Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. Total separations includes quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (including retirements). The quits rate, which can serve as a barometer of workers' ability to change jobs, was down significantly, falling to 1.8 percent in May 2002 from 2.2 percent in May 2001. (See table 7.) The rates of layoffs and discharges and other separations were little changed over the year. (See tables 9 and 11.)
- Hires and separations estimates help show dynamic flows in the labor market that net changes in the employment level do not. Over the year ended in May 2002, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 1.4 million. In the same period, 52.3 million hires and 52.9 million separations occurred at U.S. businesses. (Procedures for collecting hires and separations data were revised in March 2002 to address possible underreporting. See the following Background section and the Technical Note for additional information.) Retail trade and services reported the largest number of hires and separations.

Background

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has collected job openings and labor turnover data in the past, but not in a way that covered all industries and the entire nation on an ongoing basis. The new survey collects monthly job openings and labor turnover data from a random sample of 16,000 nonfarm business establishments, including factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local government entities in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The data elements collected monthly from each cooperating establishment are employment for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month; job openings on the last business day of the month; and hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations for the entire month. The measure of job openings is a one-day snapshot at the end of the month, while the hires and separations measures represent flows of workers into and out of jobs over the course of the full calendar month.

In responding to the survey, employers are asked to report only those job openings for which 1) a specific position exists, 2) work could start within 30 days, and 3) the employer is actively recruiting from outside of the establishment to fill the position. Hires are any additions to the payroll, and separations are any separations from the payroll, including quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations (retirements or transfers to other locations). For hires and separations, firms are asked to exclude employees returning from or going on strike; employees of temporary help agencies, leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants; and employees changing jobs within the establishment. Data on employees of temporary help agencies, leasing companies, outside contractors, and consultants are reported by employers in those industries.

Job openings, hires, and separations levels and rates are available for the nation; for the total private sector and nine private industry divisions based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system; and for the total public sector, with breakouts for the federal government and for state and local government combined. Levels and rates also are published for four geographic regions: the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. (See attached tables.) JOLTS industry estimates are scheduled to be converted to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in 2003.

The estimates from the JOLTS program are considered developmental and caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions from them. The sample of establishments selected for the survey was not fully initiated until January 2002, and therefore JOLTS estimates for January 2002 forward are based on more survey responses. In March 2002, BLS procedures for collecting hires and separations data were revised to address possible underreporting. As a result, JOLTS hires and separations estimates for months prior to March 2002 may not be strictly comparable with estimates for March 2002 and later.

Uses of the Data

As the monthly JOLTS time series grow longer, their value in assessing the business cycle, the difficulty that employers have in hiring workers, and the extent of the mismatch between the unused supply of available workers and the unmet demand for labor by employers will increase. Of particular interest will be the study of the complex relationship between job openings and unemployment. While these two measures are expected to move in opposite directions over the course of the business cycle, their relative levels and movements depend on the efficiency of the labor market in matching workers and jobs.

Along with the job openings rate, trends in hires and separations may broadly identify which aggregate industries face the tightest labor markets. Quits rates may provide clues about workers' views of the labor market or their success in finding better jobs. In addition, businesses will be able to compare their own turnover rate to the national, regional, and major industry division rates.

Hires and separations estimates cannot completely explain net changes in payroll employment. Research shows that some reporters systematically underreport separations relative to hires due to a number of factors, including the nature of their payroll systems and practices. The shortfall appears to be about 2 percent or less over a 12-month period. Other reasons why it is problematic to compare changes in payroll employment with hires and separations, especially over short-term periods, are: 1) the reference period for payroll employment is the pay period including the 12th of the month, while the reference period for hires and separations is the calendar month; and 2) payroll employment can vary from month to month simply because part-time and on-call workers may not always work during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Future Releases

BLS plans to update the job openings, hires, and separations series from the JOLTS program on its website during the last week of each month. Estimates for June 2002 are scheduled for release August 30, 2002. In future months, please refer to the BLS Web site at http://www.bls.gov/jlt/ for updates of the JOLTS series.

For More Information

For additional information, please see the Technical Note or the JOLTS Web site at http://www.bls.gov/jlt/. Additional information about JOLTS also may be obtained by e-mailing Joltsinfo@bls.gov or by calling (202) 691-5870.

Technical Note

The statistics for the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics from data collected monthly from a sample of business establishments.

Collection

Each month, data are collected in a survey of business establishments for total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Data collection methods include computer-assisted telephone interviewing, touchtone data entry, fax, and mail.

Coverage

The JOLTS sample includes randomly selected nonfarm establishments such as factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local government entities in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Concepts

Industry classification. The industry classifications in this release are in accordance with the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual. In order to ensure the highest possible quality of data, State Employment Security Agencies verify with employers and update, if necessary, the industry code, location, and ownership classification of all establishments on a 3-year cycle. Changes in establishment classification codes resulting from the verification process are always introduced with the data reported for the first month of the year.

Employment. Employment includes persons on the payroll who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th day of the reference month. Full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary, short-term, salaried, and hourly employees are included, as are employees on paid vacations or other paid leave. Persons on leave without pay or on strike for the entire pay period, or who are proprietors or partners of unincorporated businesses or unpaid family workers, are not counted as employed.

Job openings. Establishments submit job openings information for the last business day of the reference month. A job opening requires that 1) a specific position exists, 2) work could start within 30 days, and 3) the employer is actively recruiting from outside of the establishment to fill the position. Included are full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary, and short-term openings. Active recruiting means that the establishment is engaged in current efforts to fill the job opening, such as advertising in newspapers or on the Internet, posting help-wanted signs, accepting applications, or using other similar methods.

Excluded are jobs to be filled only by internal transfers, promotions, demotions, or recall from layoffs. Also excluded are jobs with start dates more than 30 days in the future and jobs for which employees have been hired but have not yet reported for work. The job openings rate is computed by dividing the number of job openings by the sum of employment and job openings and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Hires. A hire is reported if it occurred any time during the reference month. Hires are the total number of additions to the payroll during the month, including both new and rehired employees, on-call or intermittent employees who returned to work after having been formally separated, transfers from other locations, and employees recalled to the location after a layoff lasting more than 7 days. The hires rate is computed by dividing the number of hires by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Separations. Separations are terminations of employment occurring any time during the reference month and are reported by type of separation—quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Quits are voluntary separations. Layoffs and discharges are involuntary separations initiated by the employer and include layoffs with no intent to rehire or formal layoffs lasting or expected to last more than 7 days, discharges for cause, and terminations of seasonal employees. Other separations include retirements, transfers to other locations, deaths, and separations due to disability. Separations do not include transfers within the location or employees on strike.

The separations rate is computed by dividing the number of separations by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100. The quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations rates are computed using a similar method.

Sample methodology

The 16,000 establishments in JOLTS are drawn from a universe of approximately eight million establishments compiled as part of the operations of the Covered Employment and Wages, or ES-202, program. This program includes all employers subject to state unemployment insurance laws and federal agencies subject to Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).

The sample design is based on a probability sample of firms, and BLS conducts sample validation procedures to ensure the suitability of the establishments selected.

The sampling frame is stratified by ownership, census region, major industry division, and size class. Large firms fall into the sample with virtual certainty. The sample is rotated so that most establishments participate in the survey for 18 consecutive months. JOLTS total employment estimates are controlled to the employment estimates of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey. A ratio of CES to JOLTS employment is used to adjust the levels for all other JOLTS data elements. Rates are then computed from the adjusted levels.

Using developmental data

The JOLTS data series on job openings, hires, and separations are considered developmental. The full sample is divided into 18 panels, with one panel enrolled each month. All 18 panels were not completely enrolled in the survey until early 2002. The data collected up until that point are from less than the full sample. Therefore, estimates from earlier months should be used with caution, as fewer sampled units were reporting data at that time.

In March 2002, BLS procedures for collecting hires and separations data were revised to address possible underreporting. As a result, JOLTS hires and separations estimates for months prior to March 2002 may not be comparable with estimates for March 2002 and later.

The estimates are not seasonally adjusted, and month-to-month changes in the estimates are subject to strong seasonal variation.

Reliability of the estimates

JOLTS estimates are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence. Estimates of sampling errors are available upon request.

In general, estimates involving many establishments have lower standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) than estimates that are based on observations from fewer establishments. The precision of estimates also is improved when the data are cumulated over time such as for quarterly and annual averages.

The JOLTS estimates also are affected by nonsampling error. Nonsampling errors can occur for many reasons, including the failure to include a segment of the population, the inability to obtain data from all units in the sample, the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide data on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data. JOLTS hires and separations estimates cannot be used to exactly explain net changes in payroll employment. Research has found that some reporters systematically underreport separations relative to hires due to a number of factors, including the nature of their payroll systems and practices. The shortfall appears to be about 2 percent or less over a 12-month period. Other reasons why it is problematic to compare changes in payroll employment with JOLTS hires and separations, especially over short-term periods, are: 1) the reference period for payroll employment is the pay period including the 12th of the month, while the reference period for hires and separations is the calendar month; and 2) payroll employment can vary from month to month simply because part-time and on-call workers may not always work during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

To improve the employment estimates, JOLTS employment estimates are controlled to the Current Employment Statistics employment estimates. The sample-based estimates from the CES program are adjusted once a year (on a lagged basis) to universe counts of payroll employment obtained from administrative records of the unemployment insurance program. The difference between the March sample-based employment estimates and the March universe counts is known as a benchmark revision and serves as a rough proxy for total CES survey error. Over the past decade, the benchmark revision for total nonfarm employment has averaged 0.3 percent, ranging from zero to 0.7 percent. This annual benchmark revision will affect the JOLTS program once a year through the employment adjustment process.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Job openings rates 1 by industry and census region (Percent)

(Percent)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.6
INDUSTRY													
Total private	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6
Mining	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	.6	.9	.8
Construction	3.4	2.5	2.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.9
Manufacturing	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6
Durable goods	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.1	.9	.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6
Nondurable goods	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8
Transportation and public utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9
Wholesale trade	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.7
Retail trade	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4
Services	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5
Government	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4
Federal	2.3	2.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.4
State and local	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.3
South	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.9
Midwest	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1
West	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6
													ĺ

¹The job openings rate is the number of job openings on the last business day of the month as a percent of total employment plus job openings.

NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

Table 2. Job openings levels 1 by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	4,339	4,055	3,908	3,853	3,652	3,332	3,014	2,820	2,915	3,030	3,188	3,258	3,455
INDUSTRY													
Total private	3,792	3,463	3,330	3,321	3,194	2,867	2,544	2,396	2,488	2,595	2,739	2,779	2,930
Mining	9	12	10	10	8	8	5	9	8	7	3	5	4
Construction	240	177	189	131	125	129	91	69	83	81	106	110	126
Manufacturing	275	304	296	274	269	227	183	167	205	226	233	249	278
Durable goods	169	190	172	168	150	119	94	92	110	132	134	142	157
Nondurable goods	106	114	124	106	119	108	88	75	95	94	99	107	121
Transportation and public utilities	160	163	156	155	128	164	132	102	116	107	120	137	132
Wholesale trade	143	167	120	108	107	84	84	69	105	109	139	113	115
Retail trade	891	724	755	779	790	683	575	484	448	481	558	547	576
Finance, insurance, and real estate	230	231	188	193	202	150	177	189	182	191	209	195	189
Services	1,845	1,686	1,616	1,670	1,564	1,422	1,298	1,308	1,341	1,394	1,371	1,424	1,508
Government	547	592	578	532	458	465	470	424	427	434	449	479	525
Federal	61	64	40	43	42	40	54	46	37	54	59	52	65
State and local	486	528	538	490	416	425	416	378	389	381	390	426	460
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	854	744	695	703	692	582	556	542	478	484	527	542	604
South	1,511	1,388	1,346	1,316	1,308	1,192	1,090	1,053	1,156	1,207	1,190	1,245	1,389
Midwest	1,005	949	949	977	892	786	694	643	612	649	713	727	692
West	969	974	917	858	760	771	674	582	668	690	759	744	769

¹ Job openings are the number of job openings on the last business day of the month

Table 3. Hires rates 1 by industry and census region (Percent)

(Percent)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	4.3	4.4	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.7
INDUSTRY													
Total private	4.8	4.9	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.1
Mining	5.2	4.9	3.5	3.4	2.8	1.9	1.5	1.8	5.2	2.1	3.6	2.6	5.8
Construction	7.4	7.1	5.5	5.1	4.8	5.3	4.3	3.2	4.9	4.7	5.2	6.5	6.4
Manufacturing	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.8
Durable goods	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.3	.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.6
Nondurable goods	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.4	3.0
Transportation and public utilities	4.1	3.0	3.5	2.5	3.3	2.2	2.8	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	3.1	2.5
Wholesale trade	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.7
Retail trade	6.8	6.2	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.3	5.5	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.4	4.9	5.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.7
Services	5.0	5.9	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.7	4.2
Government	1.7	2.1	2.0	3.0	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.5
Federal	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.6
State and local	1.7	2.0	2.0	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.2	.9	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	4.1	4.2	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.2
South	4.4	5.1	3.8	4.6	3.7	3.6	3.3	2.5	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.0
Midwest	4.6	4.2	3.5	4.2	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	3.5	3.8
West	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.5

¹The hires rate is the number of hires during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

Table 4. Hires levels 1 by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	5,682	5,900	4,772	5,223	4,808	4,530	3,992	3,068	3,529	3,574	3,806	4,270	4,864
INDUSTRY													
Total private	5,311	5,468	4,382	4,621	4,368	4,220	3,728	2,862	3,234	3,345	3,584	4,026	4,530
Mining	30	28	20	20	16	11	8	10	29	12	20	15	33
Construction	504	493	386	357	330	361	292	212	303	286	321	414	422
Manufacturing	393	394	357	420	328	365	271	224	297	336	342	397	463
Durable goods	186	211	194	229	166	180	133	92	166	205	216	232	262
Nondurable goods	207	183	163	191	163	185	138	131	131	131	126	165	202
Transportation and public utilities	294	215	249	179	235	158	192	123	142	145	139	210	169
Wholesale trade	239	228	180	184	175	147	125	98	132	120	146	153	183
Retail trade	1,595	1,468	1,312	1,469	1,497	1,490	1,320	972	821	893	1,002	1,142	1,326
Finance, insurance, and real estate	200	184	168	187	159	173	166	119	134	159	153	157	206
Services	2,056	2,458	1,709	1,805	1,627	1,514	1,354	1,104	1,378	1,395	1,463	1,538	1,727
Government	371	432	390	603	440	310	265	206	295	229	222	244	334
Federal	62	65	50	41	27	35	43	37	31	33	28	28	41
State and local	309	367	340	562	413	276	222	169	263	196	194	216	293
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	1,039	1,086	760	768	862	752	668	508	523	456	528	622	821
South	2,036	2,382	1,750	2,125	1,700	1,660	1,531	1,150	1,466	1,549	1,607	1,597	1,863
Midwest	1,476	1,342	1,118	1,331	1,295	1,095	926	709	718	782	821	1,108	1,193
West	1,131	1,090	1,143	1,000	950	1,023	867	700	822	787	849	943	987

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

Table 5. Total separations rates ¹ by industry and census region (Percent)

(Percent)	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Industry and census region	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	3.7	3.4	3.9	4.6	4.1	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.1
INDUSTRY													
Total private	4.2	3.7	4.4	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4
Mining	3.0	4.3	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.7	3.3	3.9	2.7	2.3
Construction	5.8	5.5	5.4	6.0	6.8	6.1	7.0	7.3	5.0	5.5	5.3	4.6	4.8
Manufacturing	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.4	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8
Durable goods	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.3	2.5	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9
Nondurable goods	3.1	2.9	4.1	3.5	3.1	3.5	2.5	3.4	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7
Transportation and public utilities	2.9	3.4	4.3	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.1
Wholesale trade	3.5	2.5	3.7	3.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.5
Retail trade	6.2	4.6	4.9	6.0	6.2	5.2	4.4	5.0	5.2	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.2	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.6
Services	3.7	3.6	4.8	5.9	4.9	4.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.2
Government	1.3	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.4	1.2	.8	1.0	1.0	.8	.9	1.0	1.3
Federal	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2
State and local	1.3	2.0	1.5	2.5	1.5	1.1	.8	.8	.9	.8	.8	.9	1.3
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	2.8	2.6	3.4	4.7	3.7	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.5
South	3.8	3.7	4.8	4.5	4.2	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.3	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.4
Midwest	4.4	3.9	3.3	4.8	4.1	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.9
West	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2

¹ The separations rate is the number of total separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

Table 6. Total separations levels ¹ by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	4,962	4,570	5,194	6,067	5,356	4,748	4,014	4,265	3,944	3,366	3,514	3,791	4,037
INDUSTRY													
Total private	4,680	4,170	4,903	5,592	5,055	4,498	3,832	4,059	3,741	3,186	3,320	3,584	3,754
Mining	17	25	20	22	19	19	18	17	21	18	21	15	13
Construction	394	381	382	420	469	419	474	480	311	335	330	293	315
Manufacturing	625	588	624	588	520	589	432	552	434	415	427	431	468
Durable goods	408	380	334	341	301	343	257	320	266	232	246	256	285
Nondurable goods	218	208	289	247	218	246	175	233	168	183	181	175	183
Transportation and public utilities	210	243	307	211	238	240	221	197	208	185	148	169	146
Wholesale trade	241	170	251	242	172	168	166	164	141	147	137	178	164
Retail trade	1,467	1,099	1,152	1,433	1,465	1,224	1,054	1,209	1,206	914	959	1,008	1,120
Finance, insurance, and real estate	187	182	178	222	162	171	183	143	171	118	165	144	200
Services	1,540	1,481	1,989	2,455	2,011	1,669	1,284	1,297	1,249	1,053	1,134	1,345	1,327
Government	281	401	291	475	301	250	182	207	203	180	195	206	283
Federal	37	35	40	44	36	40	34	51	41	27	35	30	31
State and local	245	366	251	431	265	210	148	156	162	153	160	176	252
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	710	682	863	1,181	942	787	642	716	631	531	517	618	621
South	1,769	1,706	2,199	2,102	1,936	1,706	1,431	1,586	1,487	1,337	1,381	1,471	1,590
Midwest	1,402	1,247	1,059	1,534	1,312	1,170	975	1,085	936	722	793	792	915
West	1,081	936	1,073	1,250	1,166	1,085	966	879	890	776	824	909	911

¹ Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month. NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

Table 7. Quits rates 1 by industry and census region (Percent)

(Percent)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	2.2	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8
INDUSTRY													
Total private	2.5	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0
Mining	1.9	2.7	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.1	.4	1.3	1.4	.8	.8	1.1
Construction	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9
Manufacturing	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.2	.8	.7	.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3
Durable goods	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	.9	.7	.6	.8	1.0	.9	1.1	1.3
Nondurable goods	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.0	.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
Transportation and public utilities	1.8	1.5	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.1	.9	1.3	1.3
Wholesale trade	1.8	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.3
Retail trade	4.7	3.6	4.0	4.6	4.5	3.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.0	.9	1.2	.9	1.3	1.3	1.5
Services	2.2	2.2	3.2	3.3	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0
Government	.8	.9	.8	1.2	.7	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.6
Federal	.8	.8	.8	1.0	.5	.6	.8	.7	.8	.6	.7	.5	.6
State and local	.8	1.0	.8	1.2	.7	.4	.5	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.6
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4
South	2.5	2.3	3.3	2.8	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0
Midwest	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.7
West	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9

¹ The quits rate is the number of quits during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

Table 8. Quits levels by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	2,956	2,727	3,274	3,585	2,910	2,497	1,982	1,906	2,026	1,844	1,989	2,167	2,383
INDUSTRY													
Total private	2,787	2,529	3,119	3,357	2,770	2,401	1,874	1,805	1,920	1,743	1,881	2,063	2,247
Mining	11	15	12	13	10	9	6	2	7	8	5	4	6
Construction	162	185	207	173	180	145	118	88	104	118	122	127	125
Manufacturing	231	252	217	287	218	202	137	125	149	171	177	198	211
Durable goods	115	157	127	149	121	93	69	61	82	100	94	109	125
Nondurable goods	115	95	90	138	97	109	67	64	68	71	83	88	86
Transportation and public utilities	128	106	163	133	143	112	79	84	99	77	61	87	87
Wholesale trade	124	95	116	145	102	71	80	77	82	72	82	97	89
Retail trade	1,109	857	939	1,103	1,050	908	725	705	670	615	676	723	790
Finance, insurance, and real estate	100	118	130	150	96	94	80	68	91	69	103	98	118
Services	922	899	1,335	1,354	971	860	649	655	716	614	656	729	822
Government	169	198	154	228	140	96	108	101	106	101	108	104	136
Federal	20	20	22	27	14	14	21	19	19	15	19	13	15
State and local	148	178	132	202	126	82	87	82	87	86	89	91	121
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	395	415	460	625	495	433	312	301	294	273	261	297	359
South	1,155	1,057	1,528	1,302	1,128	971	788	744	786	762	827	908	943
Midwest	726	720	673	950	685	585	443	469	503	372	451	446	530
West	679	535	612	708	602	509	439	392	444	438	449	516	551

¹ Quits are the number of quits during the entire month.

Table 9. Layoffs and discharges rates 1 by industry and census region (Percent)

Industry and census region	May	June	July							Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	Aug. 2001	Sept. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2001	Jan. 2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
INDUSTRY													
Total private	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Mining		1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	.8
Construction	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.8	3.7	5.0	5.8	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.4	2.6
Manufacturing	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2
Durable goods	2.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.2	1.7	2.3	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3
Nondurable goods	1.3	1.4	2.6	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.2	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.2
Transportation and public utilities	.9	1.5	1.2	.9	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.0	.6
Wholesale trade		.9	1.8	1.2	.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	.7	.8	.7	1.1	1.0
Retail trade	1.2	.9	.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.8	2.1	1.1	1.1	.9	1.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	.8	.4	.4	.5	.7	.8	1.1	.6	.7	.6	.4	.4	.9
Services	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	.8	1.0	1.2	1.0
Government	.3	.6	.3	1.0	.5	.5	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.3	.4
Federal	.2	.3	.3	.2	.5	.3	.2	.6	.4	.1	.3	.4	.3
State and local	.3	.6	.3	1.1	.5	.5	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.4
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	1.0	.8	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.2	.8	.8	1.0	.9
South	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
Midwest	1.6	1.3	.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.2	.9	.9	.9	.9
West	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0
			'''	1.0	1.0		'	1.0	1.0				1.0

¹ The layoffs and discharges rate is the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

Table 10. Layoffs and discharges levels ¹ by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	1,600	1,454	1,435	1,981	2,014	1,911	1,786	2,005	1,590	1,242	1,247	1,324	1,350
INDUSTRY													
Total private	1,541	1,334	1,369	1,788	1,906	1,815	1,743	1,944	1,542	1,205	1,204	1,259	1,266
Mining	5	7	7	8	6	7	10	14	8	10	9	9	5
Construction	200	178	148	204	265	254	336	381	197	208	195	155	174
Manufacturing	344	275	332	222	256	330	270	384	235	212	214	191	208
Durable goods	253	176	146	138	146	227	173	232	153	113	132	122	126
Nondurable goods	91	99	186	84	110	103	97	152	82	99	82	69	81
Transportation and public utilities	63	109	88	62	79	97	117	92	89	94	72	71	43
Wholesale trade	96	63	121	82	58	80	82	77	50	50	48	71	67
Retail trade	292	204	176	279	343	265	299	429	476	248	245	219	280
Finance, insurance, and real estate	61	33	34	37	51	64	82	44	50	44	31	34	71
Services	479	464	463	893	849	716	548	524	435	341	391	510	419
Government	59	120	66	193	107	96	43	61	48	37	42	65	84
Federal	6	7	7	6	13	8	5	16	9	3	8	11	8
State and local	53	112	59	188	94	88	38	45	39	34	34	53	76
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	244	212	293	477	367	297	267	356	288	206	197	258	222
South	479	497	479	626	657	616	561	708	584	461	465	458	537
Midwest	520	428	262	451	521	520	479	525	365	279	277	278	296
West	357	317	401	427	469	477	478	415	354	296	308	329	295

¹Layoffs and discharges are the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month.

Table 11. Other separations rates 1 by industry and census region (Percent)

(Percent)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
industry and sensus region	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
INDUSTRY													
Total private	.3	.3	.4	.4	.3	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2
Mining	.1	.5	.2	.3	.6	.5	.4	.1	1.0	.2	1.4	.3	.3
Construction	.5	.3	.4	.6	.3	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3
Manufacturing	.3	.3	.4	.4	.3	.3	.1	.3	.3	.2	.2	.3	.3
Durable goods	.4	.4	.6	.5	.3	.2	.1	.3	.3	.2	.2	.3	.3
Nondurable goods	.2	.2	.2	.3	.2	.5	.1	.2	.3	.2	.2	.3	.2
Transportation and public utilities	.3	.4	.8	.2	.2	.4	.4	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2
Wholesale trade	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.1	.2	.1	.4	.1	.2	.1
Retail trade	.3	.2	.2	.2	.3	.2	.1	.3	.3	.2	.2	.3	.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	.3	.4	.2	.4	.2	.2	.3	.4	.4	.1	.4	.2	.1
Services	.3	.3	.5	.5	.5	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.3	.2
Government	.3	.4	.4	.3	.3	.3	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3
Federal	.4	.3	.4	.4	.3	.7	.3	.6	.5	.4	.3	.2	.3
State and local	.2	.4	.3	.2	.2	.2	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	.3	.2	.4	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.2
South	.3	.3	.4	.4	.3	.3	.2	.3	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2
Midwest	.5	.3	.4	.4	.3	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3
West	.2	.3	.2	.4	.3	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2

¹The other separations rate is the number of other separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

Table 12. Other separations levels ¹ by industry and census region (In thousands)

(In thousands)													
Industry and census region	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
Total	407	389	485	500	432	340	246	354	328	280	278	300	304
INDUSTRY													
Total private	353	307	414	447	379	282	215	310	280	237	234	262	241
Mining	1	3	1	2	3	3	2	1	5	1	8	2	2
Construction	31	18	27	43	24	19	19	10	10	10	14	11	17
Manufacturing	51	61	75	79	46	58	26	44	49	32	36	43	50
Durable goods	39	47	61	54	34	23	15	27	32	19	20	25	34
Nondurable goods	12	14	13	25	12	35	10	16	18	13	16	18	16
Transportation and public utilities	18	27	55	16	16	31	26	21	20	15	14	12	16
Wholesale trade	21	11	13	15	12	16	4	10	10	25	7	10	8
Retail trade	66	38	37	51	71	50	30	75	59	51	38	66	50
Finance, insurance, and real estate	26	31	14	35	15	13	22	31	29	5	31	12	11
Services	140	117	191	208	190	92	86	119	98	98	87	107	87
Government	53	83	71	53	53	58	31	45	48	42	44	38	64
Federal	11	7	11	11	9	18	8	16	12	9	7	6	8
State and local	43	76	59	42	44	40	23	29	36	33	37	32	55
CENSUS REGION													
Northeast	71	55	109	79	81	58	63	59	49	53	59	63	41
South	135	152	192	174	151	119	81	133	118	114	89	104	110
Midwest	155	99	123	133	106	65	52	90	68	71	65	68	89
West	45	84	60	114	95	99	49	72	92	42	66	64	64
													i

¹ Other separations are the number of other separations during the entire month. NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,